Crystal Snowflake

Kit contains:

- 2 pipe cleaners
- stick
- string
- 6 tablespoons Borax powder
- colored ribbon

You will need: scissors, a bowl, a small pot of water, a mixing spoon, and ADULT SUPERVISION.

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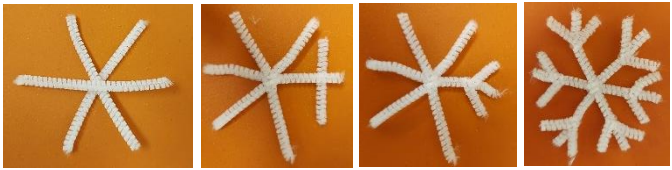
INSTRUCTIONS

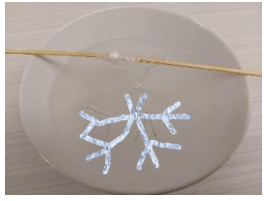
Step 1. Make your snowflake. Cut one of your pipe cleaners into 3 equal pieces. Cut the other into 6 equal pieces. Twist the long pieces together in the middle. Then twist a short piece to the end of each strand as shown.



Step 2: Tie one end of the string to the flake and the other to the stick. Suspend over a bowl. Snowflake should NOT touch the bowl.

Step 3. Boil 2 cups of water in a pot. Stir in the Borax powder and boil until dissolved and clear. (This is the adult supervision part!)

Step 4. Pour the hot Borax solution into the bowl, completely covering the spider. Crystals will form in 3 to 4 hours.



Step 5. Remove spider from bowl, cut off string, and let dry. Attach your ribbon, and then hang your snowflake somewhere beautiful.

It's okay if your snowflake doesn't look like ours. In nature, the probability of two snowflakes being alike is so tiny as to be virtually zero.

THE CHEMISTRY!

Chemists are constantly creating reactions in compounds to try to change their makeup. One of these is the formation for crystals from a solution, called recrystallization. This is where a saturated solution cools to form crystals from a mixture.

In the case of Borax, the compound is dissolved in hot water. As with most minerals and solids, Borax becomes less soluble the lower the temperature of the water. So, when the mixture with Borax and water is cooled, the water holds less of the Borax and it falls out of the solution. This causes crystals to form at the bottom of the solution and makes your beautiful creations!

(Source: 20muleteamlaundry.com)